

CHAPTER XVI

SACRAL HARLOTRY. CHILD SACRIFICE

Men's clubhouses. — Consecrated women. — Relation of
sacral harlotry
?nd child sacrifice.— Reproduction and food supply. — The
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— The Adonis myth. — Religious ritual, religious
drama, and harlotry.—
The Babylonian custom ; its relation to religion. — Religion
and the mores.
— Cases of sacral harlotry. — The same customs in the
Old Testament. —
The antagonism of abundance and excess. — Survivals of
sacral harlotry;
analogous customs in Hindostan. — Lingam and yoni. —
Conventionaliza-
tion.— Criticism of the mores of Hindostan. — Mexican
mores ; drunken-
ness.— Japanese mores.— Chinese religion and mores.—
Philosophy of
the interest in reproduction ; incest. — The archaic is
sacred. — Child sac-
rifice. — Beast sacrifice substituted for child sacrifice. —
Mexican doctrine
of greater power through death. — Motives of child sacrifice.
— Dedication
by vows. — Degeneration of the custom of consecrating
women. — Our tradi-
tions come from Israel. — How the Jewish view of
sensuality prevailed.

The topics treated in this chapter are further
illustrations of
the power of the mores to make anything right,
and to protect
anything from condemnation. See also Chapter
XVII.

585. Men's clubhouses. It is a very common
custom in
barbaric society that the men have a clubhouse in
which they
spend much of their time together and in which
the unmarried
men sleep. Such houses are centers of intrigue,
enterprise,
amusement, and vice. The men work there, carry
on shamanis-
tic rites, hold dances, entertain guests, and listen
to narratives
by the elders. Women are excluded altogether or
at times. In
the Caroline Islands such houses are institutions of
social and
religious importance. While the women of the
place may not
enter them, those from a neighboring place live
in them for
a time in license, but return home with payment
which is used
partly for religious purposes and partly for
themselves.¹

¹ Snouck-Hurgronje, *De Atjehers*, I, 64-66; *Bur. Eth.*, XVIII, 285; *Amer. Anthropol.*, XI, 56; Codrington, *Melanesians*, 102, 299; Serpa Pinto, *Como eu Atravassei Africa*, I, 82; Kubary, *JCarolinenarchipel.* 47, 226, 244; Powers, *Calif, Indians*^ 24.